

No. 13, $26\frac{3}{4}$ acres, during the same period carried sheep equal to four per acre without any other feeding except mangels in September. I admit that the comparisons are not altogether fair, but if anything they favour the subdivided paddock.

SUMMARY.

To sum up, my observations lead me to the conclusion that farm-management in the North Island should take account of the following considerations:—

1. Good pasture is, and must continue to be, the mainstay of the North Island farmer.

2. Most good pastures may be further improved in nutritive value, if not in actual production of herbage, by periodic applications of crushed limestone.

3. Inferior pasture everywhere should be renewed by liming, cropping, manuring, and regrassing after a second application of crushed limestone. In this connection it may be noted that green-manuring is not usually an economical practice.

4. On light land these successive stages of improvement should automatically bring about a rotational system, including growth of oats, inexpensive forage crops, and pastures of longer or shorter duration, according to circumstances.

5. If lucerne can be grown, the maximum of profits cannot be realized without it.

6. Beyond a very narrow limit, profits recede as cultivation extends and pasture areas are reduced.

7. Nevertheless, exclusive reliance on pasture, or pasture together with fattening crops or transition crops for dairy stock, is not judicious. There is ample justification on economic grounds for the extension of the practice of preserving fodder as hay and ensilage, and the feeding of these and of home-grown chaff to all classes of stock when the inevitable need arises (which involves more general provision of feed-racks and troughs). The adoption of this course, while being of undoubted advantage to the individual farmer, would at the same time benefit farmers as a whole by exerting a steadying influence on stock values, at present subject to dangerous and disturbing fluctuations, which, whether up or down, restrict production, for they check the raising of young stock.

8. Where unsatisfactory results follow the grazing of pastures which are divided so as to allow of four changes, it is better pasture or more stock—not more fencing—that is needed.

NOTE.—The substance of the foregoing article was given as an address at the winter show conference of the National Dairy Association, at Palmerston North, June, 1916.